

REMARKS

In response to the pending Office Action, Applicants have amended claims 1-14, 17, 18 and 21 so as to address the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to further clarify the intended subject matter of the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that each issue raised by the Examiner in paragraph 1 of the Office Action has been addressed by the foregoing amendments, and therefore the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, has been overcome.

Accordingly, as there are no other rejections pending, and claims 3, 4, 6 and 16-33 have already been indicated to be allowable, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

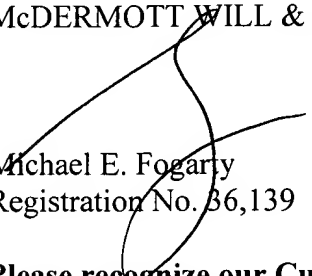
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

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including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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